Are not within the leaf of pity writ,
But set them down[8] horrible traitors:
Spare not
the babe, Whose dimpled smiles
from fools exhaust their
mercy[9];

I have not hitherto met with any ancient portrait of a modest English woman,, in which the *papilla exert &* were exhibited as described on the present occasion by Shakspeare ; for he alludes not only to what he has called in his celebrated Song, " the hills of snow," but to the " pinks that grow" upon their summits.

STEEVENS. I believe we should read nearly thus:

"------*nor* those milk-paps.,
" That through the *widow's barb* bore at men's eyes,
'* Are not within the leaf of pity writ."

The use of the doubled negative is so common in Shakspeare that it is unnecessary to support it by instances. The *barbe,* I believe, was a kind of *veil.* Cressida, in Chaucer, who appears as a *widow,* is described as wearing a *barbe.* Troilus and Cressida, book ii. v. 110, in which place Caxton's edition (as I learn from the Glossary) reads—wimple, which certainly signifies a *veil,* and was probably substituted as a synonimous word for *barbe,* the more antiquated reading of the manuscripts. *Unbarbed* is used by Shakspeare for *uncovered,* in Coriolanus, Act III. Sc. V;:

" Must I go show them my *unbarbed* sconce ?"

See also Leland's Collectanea, vol. v. p. 317., new edit, where the ladies, mourning at the funeral of Queen Mary, are mentioned as having *their barbes above their chinnes.* TYRWHITT.

There is a singular passage in Weaver's Plantagenet's Tragi cal Story, in which the term *windows* is used for a woman's breasts. I insert it, as it is barely possible that Timon, among the violent metaphors which his rage suggests, might, if we had any other authority for *windows* being used in this sense, mean by the *window-bars,* the handkerckief which confined them, At all events, the passage is curious. ^

" Like to a wrinkled carrion I have seen,
if Instead of fifty, write her down fifteen ;
* Wearing her bought complexion in a box,
1 And every morn, her closet-face unlocks,
* Plants cherries in her cheeks, her eye she chears,
* And with her pencill cancells thirty years ;
* Opening her lustfull *windows,* which are shown,
* Nigh to the navell o'er with lillies sown I"

BOSWELL.

[8] Set them down —] Old copy in defiance of metre—

" *But* set them down." STEEVENS.

9 —EXHAUST their mercy;] *For exhaust,* Sir Thomas Han-